

Field report:

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Location: Korong Batu Gadang, Nagari Kurangi Hulu, Pariaman

Village Size: 1,000 + Households

Access: good road access

Purpose of Visit: to have a clearer picture of self-recovery effort being carried out, the quality of self-built transitional shelters, and those still living in host families or community buildings.

This field trip was carried out together with CARE's tool kit distribution trip taken on 19th October 2009.

Note: This report is based on sample around one village.

Summary of Observation:

Some inequity of distribution was reported from those living far from village centre.

Self-recovery rate is high and building activities were seen around the village. The majority have completed building their temporary shelter within a week and are now awaiting government grants to start their reconstruction effort. Some of these shelters will possibly need support in term of material and technical assistance.

Those still living under plastic sheet – especially attached to damaged houses, should become a priority in the up coming month.

1. Distribution:

Some 4-500 households live in the outlying area of the village, the group women interviewed walk 3-4 kilometres to the distribution centre daily in hope of aid distribution while the men are staying at their houses to clean up and make repairs - **no prior announcement of distribution is relayed**. Throughout the village visited, this sentiment is repeated a few time, that aid is **not** reaching those living far from the village centre, requests are made for equity in distribution.



For this group of women, aid received so far has been 1ltr. of rice and a package of instant noodle – until today with the tool kits.

2. Current living condition:

Those not already building temporary shelter are using tents or plastic sheets privately donated or in barrack-like structures constructed by communities. Up to 30-40 people are still sleeping at the mosque.

3. House Damage:

As many have witnessed, severe damages are seen in full masonry houses without frame structure, 'columns' are often built of bricks, concrete frames use rebar with no threads.



Local practice of using stones with lime-and-clay mortar appear to have withstood the earthquake well when it's only waist high and topped with timber structure – full walls of the same material construction had often lean away from the rest of the building and collapsed.



4. Livelihood:

Most people in this village work as day labour - on farms of landowners, they also collect coconuts to sell (100 coconuts pays IDR10,000).

5. Building Practice:

Houses are often built in stages, money from each harvest is divided – half into household expense, education, etc., and the other half is put into improving/upgrading of their house.

6. Emergency Shelter:

Individual family tents seen in the village were donated by a local hospital, most people lived in this tent (or similar) for around a week, some of them still use it for sleeping at night.



Also seen are larger tents provided by Bupati for those who request for it. The one we saw was put up for the women and children from a group of 10 houses. Next to this tent they are planning to build their communal temporary shelter and are stockpiling material for it.

7. Transitional Shelters:

A majority have constructed their own T-shelter, often a small, enclosed structure built from collected material with covered space (plastic sheet) area out front. Roofing is reclaimed CGI sheeting from damaged houses. Most of these shelters are quite sturdy and well constructed, if somewhat small.



These temporary shelters are often built with support of friends and family, - the house below, left, was an exception, the owner paid builders IDR 500,000 to build it combined with salvaged material from the old house. On the right is an example of a house being built from coconut wood. It has so far taken 10 days – starting from coconut wood processing – they are now looking to collect enough money to buy roofing material.



A small number were also seen living under plastic sheets, using the house during the day and sleeping in outside during the night.



Of more concern are also those living attached to damaged structures, setting up ad hoc sleeping area with a bed and plastic sheeting.



8. Security:

Concerns are expressed over having shelter that can be locked and secured during the day as the harvesting season is approaching and the inhabitants will be spending most of their days out in the field.